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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGAINST APARTHEID

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 671st MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 3 November 1993, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. GAMBARI (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.45 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1. The agenda was adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2. Mr. GOEL (India) Rapporteur of the Special Committee, introduced the report, which covered the period October 1992 to October 1993, and explained that it referred only to those events which had occurred since the publication of the preceding report which affected the process under way in South Africa and had a direct impact on developments.

3. Chapter II described political developments, including the multi-party negotiations, the agreements reached to date and other political developments relating to the process of peaceful settlement - acts of violence and intimidation, the National Peace Accord and the awarding of the Nobel Prize for Peace to President de Klerk and Nelson Mandela.

4. The following chapters dealt with economic performance in South Africa during the past year and important socio-economic issues (chapter III), the external relations of South Africa (diplomatic, commercial and military) (chapter IV), the international response to developments (at the United Nations and from intergovernmental organizations, Governments and non-governmental organizations) (chapter V), the work of the Special Committee (chapter VI) and, lastly, conclusions and recommendations, which appeared in chapter VII.

5. The members of the Drafting Group had devoted careful attention to the wording of the report, which had been prepared in the form most likely to meet with the Committee's approval.

6. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should consider the draft report chapter by chapter.

7. It was so decided.

8. The introduction (chapter I) to the draft report was adopted.

9. Chapter II, "Political developments in South Africa", was adopted.

10. Chapter III, "Socio-economic situation in South Africa", was adopted.

11. Chapter IV, "External relations of South Africa", was adopted.

12. Chapter V, "International response to developments in South Africa", was adopted.

13. Chapter VI, "Review of the work of the Special Committee", was adopted.

14. The final chapter of the report, "Conclusions and recommendations", was adopted.

15. The draft report as a whole was adopted.

16. Mr. PHEKO (Observer for the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)) said that although the draft report was comprehensive and informative, it failed to cover certain elements that definitely were important. The main problem was the very nature of the situation in South Africa, which was characterized by a political pluralism that was not taken sufficiently into account.

17. The draft report rightly pointed out that the Organization of African Unity (OAU) supported the lifting of sanctions. However, it also should have stated that OAU noted further that the African National Congress (ANC) and PAC did not agree on the timing for the lifting of sanctions. Mention also should have been made of the fact that OAU called upon all its member States to continue to exercise the utmost vigilance with regard to developments in South Africa, with a view to ensuring that there would be no obstacles to the achievement of their shared objective - the establishment of a democratic, united and non-racial South Africa. Moreover, between the lifting of sanctions and the awarding of the Nobel Prize for Peace to President de Klerk, there should have been a reference to the massacre of five young South Africans on the very day that the General Assembly had decided to lift the sanctions, particularly since the massacre surely could not have occurred without the backing of authorities at the highest level.

18. Another controversial point was the fact that the report welcomed the adoption of an interim non-racial constitution, which the United Nations considered a sign of far-reaching and irreversible change. However, the South African Government already had reneged on its commitment to free all political prisoners and establish a climate conducive to genuine negotiations. It also had refused to agree to the shared control of interim forces during the transition period and to accept the verification under national and international supervision of the disbanding of groups of mercenaries. The South African Government obviously had a separate agenda as far as the South African defence forces were concerned.

19. Other points that should have been mentioned included the situation with regard to sports, the detention of political prisoners, particularly those who had been condemned to death, and military collaboration with Israel.

20. While on the whole the draft report provided a clear picture of the situation, he hoped that when the Special Committee submitted its draft resolutions to the General Assembly, some of the elements inadequately dealt with in the report would be taken fully into account.

21. The CHAIRMAN assured the observer for PAC that an effort would be made to accommodate him at the appropriate time.

The meeting rose at 12 p.m.